

The Caisson Corner

Camp Liberty, Iraq

July 2006



From the Battalion Commander

Greetings again to the Iron Caisson family from a sweltering Camp Liberty, Iraq. I have a great deal of satisfaction in writing this month's article. During the month of June, it was my pleasure to see 18 Soldiers get promoted in rank. These fine men and women demonstrate the strength and character of the 589th team. I congratulate not just the Soldiers, but also their families for the success of these fine Americans. Hooah!

Another milestone this month is Alpha Company's change of command. I thank CPT Samuel A. Burns for his tireless service and leadership to the Rough Riders. He has been a tremendous Company Commander. I also thank his wife Nancy for the outstanding support she gives to Sam, the soldiers, and their families. I look forward to the great things that Sam will do for the Army as he moves on to newer challenges.



I introduce CPT Jeffrey R. Strauss as the incoming Alpha Company Commander. CPT Strauss comes out of the Battalion Adjutant position to lead the Rough Riders. I look forward to working with Jeff as he leads the men and women of Alpha Company to even greater success. To Jeff's wife Nichole; thank you for continuing to support your husband as he assumes command of

the Rough Riders. It has been my privilege to serve with both of these fine men and know their families; they exemplify the Iron Caisson spirit. Finally, I encourage each family and Soldier to begin to communicate with each other on their expectations as we begin to prepare for our return home. Both you and your Soldier deserve the best possible redeployment and that begins with planning now and talking about what

each of you expect the return to look like.

Again I thank all of the Iron Caisson family for your continued support of your Soldiers.

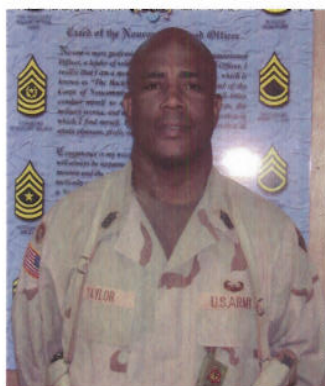
IRON CAISSONS
"SUPPORT THE FIGHT"
IC6
LTC BARRY A. DIEHL

Inside this issue:

- Commander and CSM send
- Company News
- Caisson Staff News
- Faces of 589th
- Chaplain's Corner
- Mail and Website guide



From the Battalion Command Sergeant Major



Greetings from the mighty "Iron Caissons"!

First of all, I thank our great families back home for all the support you have provided us during our deployment. We still have a few months to go, so

we must stay focused on the prize of getting everyone home safely and in one piece. Leaders must enforce the standards even more as we get closer to redeployment. We must keep our Soldiers from becoming complacent. "Our mission is not over!" Our soldiers are doing great things for the 589th Brigade Support Battalion, the Fires Brigade and the 4th Infantry Division.

Leaders must ensure that they are doing their checks: "Are we in the proper uniform on the FOB and off the FOB?" "Has that vehicle been dispatched properly?" "Are our soldiers wearing their seat belts and Advanced Combat Helmets when operating a vehicle?" These are

some things we as leaders must ask ourselves each day until we return safely to our families.

The one question that stays on my mind day after day is, "Have I done everything I can do to keep my Soldiers safe today?"

On a final note, congratulations to SGT Cockrell for winning the Fires Brigade NCO of the Quarter Board, and congratulations to SGT Olibrice and SPC Trinidad for winning the July NCO and Soldier of the month board.

Again, I

thank you all for your continued thoughts and prayers!

"Support the Fight"
IC7
CSM Eric L. Taylor

Check us out on the Web @

<http://www.hood.army.mil/4id/Units/Firesbde/589SB/589n1.html>

Visit the 4ID Website for up-to-date information and news@

<http://www.hood.army.mil/4id/>

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The Hammer Heads get a make-over!

The "Hammer Heads" thank MSG Sibert for her hard work and dedication to our team. She has moved on to be part of HHB, Fires Brigade. We welcome ISG Rodney J. Byus, who came to us from the brigade S2 shop. With him comes a new persona for HHC, we are now known as the "Outlaws". "Welcome and we are pleased to have you join our team!" "Get out of the way, here

come the Outlaws!"

We continue to go strong and look forward to starting a brand new month. Some of the highlights for the end of June and beginning of July were the well deserved promotions for MAJ Sandifer who was selected for LTC, SSG Stewart and SPC Hemmer (S-6 shop), SPC Carter (S-2 shop), and PFC Collins (DFAC). We are very proud of all of our Soldiers on their well deserved promotions. They have worked very hard and continue to keep their heads held high. We also had two soldiers (SGT Porcher and CPL Wise) continue their service by re-enlisting. Thank you for your dedication and your motivation to drive on! Our Soldiers continue to remain vigilant and

Headquarters Company "Outlaws"

motivated and they continue to keep each other inspired. They have the drive and spirit we need to make our time here successful. Both SGT Cockrell and PFC Hinojosa competed in the Brigade Soldier / NCO of the Quarter Board. With great determination, SGT Cockrell won the Brigade NCO of the Quarter (3rd QTR). Thanks to both of them for participating, we are very proud of you!

Thank you to our families for all your service and your prayers. You have definitely been a big part of our success here. You should be very proud of all your Soldiers, husbands, wives, sons and daughters, they are doing outstanding work. We continue to be very proud of all their accomplishments, hard work and dedication. We

have come a long way!
God Bless all of you!

-CPT Whittenberger
-ISG Byus



A Company "Rough Riders"



Rough Riders Roll!!!



The time has come for me to move on! As of 15 July 2006, I will no longer serve as Commander for the "Rough Riders". I thank all of the family members, my unit leaders and my FRG leaders for your unconditional support. I could not ask for a greater team to surround me during this monumental time in my career. All of my individual and collective achievements are directly linked to each and every one of you. Captain Jeffrey and Nichole Strauss are the new addi-

tions to the Rough Rider team!

We end this month victorious. The Rough Riders won the Commander's Cup during our Battalion Organizational Day event. Our mission remains ongoing and we continue to provide first-class service here in Iraq. This starts our eighth month in theater. We remain vigilant and focused on safety and the mission.

We promoted Sergeant Palacios to Staff Sergeant and a host of Soldiers to Specialist: SPC Solomon, SPC Ellerbe, SPC Frazier,

SPC Wadsworth, SPC Hansen, SPC King, D, SPC Liddell, SPC Smith, M. We also promoted three Soldiers to Private First Class: PFC Lopez, PFC Patton and PFC Robinson, D. Three NCOs received the Army Good Conduct Medals; SGT Smith, SGT Schultz and SSG Powers. What a way to start a month!

We still have monthly VTCs so get with the FRG Team and let them know if you desire to participate. Slots are available! Continue to keep us in your prayers

and we will keep you in ours. "One Team, One Fight... Rough Riders".

Rider 6..... OUT.

-CPT Burns
-ISG Ervin

Happy Independence Day!

B Company "Bandits"

As we enter our seventh month away from Fort Hood we begin to see the light at the end of the tunnel as our planners are starting to plan our redeployment. There is still a tremendous amount of work that is yet to be accomplished. The Bandit family has come together and we are seeing some much needed improvements in our work areas. SGT Gill and a small crew, with the support of 62nd Engineers constructed four concrete pads that we are using as maintenance areas for our fleet. Additional concrete pads are in the process of being built for us and should be completed by the end of July. We have reduced the amount of vehicles in our own unit so that we can better focus on the battalion's mission. We have changed our hours of operation to avoid the major heat of the day and all of our Soldiers that were baking in the heat are now working during cooler hours at night.

We welcome WO1 Sheryl J. Egans, who has come to our unit after the birth of her baby, Taydan. We also welcome her husband Timothy to the FRG. We are

expecting the birth of a new Bandit in July; SGT Russell Bond has left on EML and is awaiting the birth of his son, Cody D. Bond. We wish Laura and SGT Bond the best of luck. We promoted two Soldiers in June from PFC to Specialist, SPC Haynes on 9 Jun and SPC Lindemann on 21 June. We have promoted PVT Forbus to PV2, PV2 Seewer to PFC, PFC Ming to SPC, PFC Colon to SPC, PFC Kim to SPC and PFC Britton to SPC all on 1 Jul. We will have a lot more promotions to SPC later in the month of July as our young Soldiers who were civilians just two years ago will be getting promoted.

June was a very good month as we celebrated the Army's birthday on 14 June (231 years), the 1st Anniversary of our unit activation was 16 June and we held an Organizational Day on 18 June. We played football, basketball and soccer in the morning, and then relaxed a little during the day with a great meal served by the Commanders, First Sergeants and Command Sergeant Major. In the late afternoon we played volleyball, some cards and dominos, threw

some horseshoes, and finished the events off with a Tug-of-War. Bravo Company finished a close second in the events; Alpha Company got to take home the Commander's Cup.

June and early July also kept us fit as the NCO's went for a four and a half mile run in June, and on 1 July, our junior enlisted Soldiers conducted a three and a half mile run.

Lastly, thanks to all of our families and friends that support us and make it easier for us to be over here doing our mission. We will all be home before you know it, and ready to take some leave for the holiday season.

STAND TALL - FIX IT ALL

-CPT Wheeler
-ISGTucker

The Caisson Corner



Bandits

Stand Tall

Fix It All!

Automation and Communications

VOICES OF THE IRON CASSIONS!!!

The S6 section started off the month of July with the honor of having one of its Soldiers receive the rank of Staff Sergeant and the other to the advancement of Specialist. The Soldiers were SSG Stewart and SPC Hemmer. SSG Stewart was able to have her husband, SSG Ronnie Stewart from Camp Prosperity come down and pin her. SSG Stewart was also awarded the Army Achievement Medal for winning the Brigade NCO of the Quarter (1st Quarter).

Private First Class Hemmer was promoted to the rank of Specialist and is one of the S6's top communication experts. SPC Hemmer came to the S6 shop during the beginning of OIF 05-07 from the HHC orderly room.

The S6 shop has been very busy establishing FM and Digital communications for the Combat

Logistics Patrols (CLPs) that are conducted by the Rough Riders. The Soldiers within the S6 shop have also successfully executed four Video Teleconferences (VTC) between the Soldiers deployed to Iraq and the family members back home at Fort Hood. This allows families to see and talk to each other on a monthly basis.

You can talk about us, but you can't talk without us!!!

The Soldiers continue to work hard with motivation and determination to complete all missions. There is never a dull moment. "We are the Voices of the Iron Caissons. You can talk about us, but you can't talk without us!"

-CPT Fuller
-SFC Aranda



**Newly
promoted
SPC Hemmer**

**SSG Stewart with
proud husband
Ronnie**



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Faces of the Iron Caissons

589th receives
Safety Awards



I said Thank You
to everybody al-
ready,.... Now
can I have my hat
back,....Please!

Uh,I'm sorry,That's **CLASSIFIED!!!!!!**



Faces of the Iron Caissons

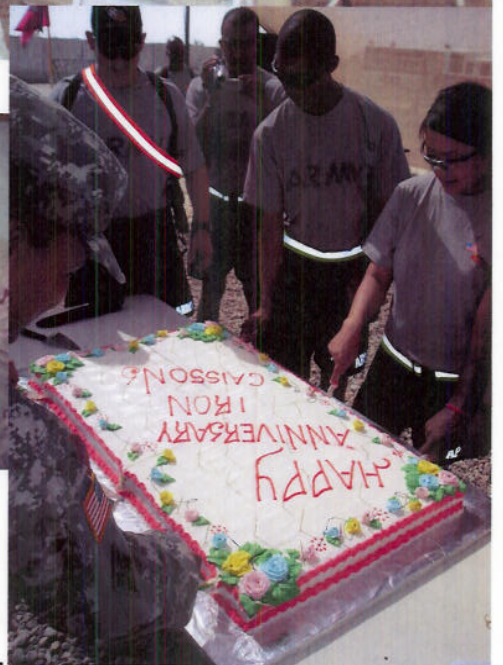
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This is Bandit Country!



The IRON CAISSONS'
celebrated their first Anni-
versary with a BIG Cake



Alpha getting ready to roll

**Bravo Soldiers
Arm Wrestling**

Postal Information: Sending

Mail to Deployed Soldiers

PFC Jones, Paul (Include Soldiers Rank, Last, First Name)

A Co, 589th BSB, 4ID (Soldiers Company, 589th BSB, 4ID)

Unit # 43087

APO AE 09344-3087

**589th Soldiers cut
the IRON CAISSON
Birthday Cake**

The Caisson Corner



Happy 4th of July! As we take a minute to cherish our American freedoms, know that the soldiers of 589thBSB continue to work hard securing life for the Iraqi people so that they too may one day relish in their own freedoms. Amongst all our missions, Soldiers continue to take advantage of EML (a much deserved two week break)—we surely hope that your time spent with loved ones is safe and relaxing.

As we now complete the seventh month of our deployment, the Support Operations Shop continues its role in supporting the fight. While we still maintain a substantial daily mission, planning has begun shifting toward the upcoming redeployment with the SPO Trans section heading up this initial effort. A huge piece of redeployment will be ensuring that our vehicular



CPT Adam Bird and ILT David Amadu lead the MATO shop in their daily mission set

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Support Operations Shop

fleet is in good shape. The MATO Shop will play a large role in this process, so this month much of the focus has been on them.

In the Army, the Field Artillery is known as the "King of Battle". In the 589th BSB, our maintenance management section is responsible for the Fires Brigade's Maintenance Support—we consider them the "King of Maintenance". We call them the MATO Shop (or "to-mato shop", depending on the day); short for material office. The MATO consists of four great Soldiers: SPC Shermikas, SSG Bright, ILT Amadu, and CPT Bird. The MATO Shop is responsible for oversight of maintenance operations and repair parts management for the Fires Brigade and all the other units we support.

The primary tool the MATO Shop uses is the Standard Army Maintenance System Level 2 (SAMS-2) computer system. The SAMS-2 computer gives the MATO shop the capability to produce critical maintenance reports to communicate the status of our combat platforms used for our missions. These reports allow them to track all the equipment needing repairs and the required parts to fix them.

SPC Shermikas is our resident SAMS-2 expert and is primarily responsible for running the processes associated with the computer system on a daily basis. SSG Bright scrubs the deadline report (026) for any errors or equipment updates; but he spends most of his time locating parts associated with the deadline equipment. SSG Bright has done an exceptional job of expediting the 'hard-to-get' parts for the brigade. He has been able to get parts from across the globe to repair critically deadline equipment. The local supply representatives know him very well and can count on hearing

from him many times a week. ILT Amadu is a Transportation Officer, but no one in the MATO Shop holds it against him! He has made an important and significant impact on the shop by learning very quickly since becoming a "to-mato" in April. He spearheaded the research and analysis of radar repair parts for all the division's radar sites. His efforts had a direct impact on availability of those parts. A true multi-functional logistician, Dave's work has been exceptional.

CPT Bird, who at 6'6" finds himself constantly bending over to enter the doorway of the shop, keeps the MATO team "cranking". The MATO team has scrubbed over seventy-two 026 reports and researched thousands of document numbers since the unit first arrived in Iraq. We are extremely proud of the work the MATO shop has accomplished during the past year and they have set the example for other MATO shops to follow. Go Ordnance and Support the Fight!

IC9

MAJ Todd Bertulis
SPO OIC

CPT Bird provides input during a BDE maintenance meeting



SPC Shermikas and SSG Bright "cranking" in the MATO Van



ATTENTION FAMILY MEMBERS

Are you interested in doing a Video Tele-conference with your loved one in Iraq? See and hear your Soldier in a private live conversation for up to 10 min. Contact the 589th Rear Detachment Commander for details at (254) 288-2654

Chaplain's Corner



Though there are still missions that require our soldiers to remain vigilant and focused on our supported units, I focus this article on our homecoming.

What are the expectations for that homecoming? Many couples have different ideas of what our return should be like. This is why it is important to discuss this now so that loved ones, friends, family, and our Soldiers can begin to manage their expectation of what redeployment will be like.

Spouses, you might be planning on your partner returning and taking over or picking up some of the load that you have had to bear while they have been gone. However, it is not enough for you to be planning on your end, but you must now begin communicating

with your mate about what you expect when they return. Do not be general, be very specific! Tell them the exact areas you want them to help out with. It is not enough to say, "When you get back I will need some help around the house". What do you mean when you say that? Tell them exactly what area of the workload you would like them to help out with. You may be expecting them to take action upon return and your spouse may not understand. They may be thinking about relaxation, enjoying being back, and slowly falling back into the groove of being home. Before you think that your loved one is lazy or does not care about your needs, understand they have just spent a year following a different routine than you. If you want them to adjust to a new routine, then it is up to you to express what your needs are.

Expectations for Redeployment

Other spouses may have adjusted to the role of sole caretaker and now maybe feel uneasy about sharing these responsibilities again. If you are not prepared for your spouse to resume the roles they had when they left it might cause some friction. When they return they might expect to step back into the role they had left; the one that you are now solely occupying. The friction will come when the deployed spouse expects to resume their role and the home station spouse doesn't want to give up that responsibility.

Expectation management and communication is not just a one-way street where you tell your spouse how it is going to be. Your spouse may be planning on sitting back and enjoying being home, and there is nothing wrong with that. However, you also want a break and time to relax. So how do you

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manage your expectations? Start the negotiations now! Begin telling your spouse your needs, listen to their needs, and work toward a plan that allows for both of you to help each other. If you both understand the new roles and stressors each of you has had to undergo in the past year, you can begin communicating and placing your reunion on the right path.

-CH (CPT) Payne

Alpha Company Change of Command

